



COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

May 9, 2006

JUVENILE HALL PLAYS HOST TO THOUSANDS

Public Invited to Annual Open House

The County of San Diego will open the doors of Juvenile Hall and Juvenile Court to the public on Saturday, May 13, from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at 2801 Meadow Lark Drive in Kearny Mesa. The annual event attracts more than 3,000 youth and adults, who get an inside look at the juvenile justice system.

Tours will showcase the living quarters, main control, schoolrooms, and daily routine of juveniles placed in Juvenile Hall. The tour includes a look inside juvenile court rooms and how they differ from adult courts. The tour ends with a question and answer period.

Outside Juvenile Hall, exhibits, demonstrations, and program information will explain the many intervention, diversion, and treatment programs the Probation Department operates. These programs have been instrumental in assisting many juveniles break their cycle of criminal behavior and become law-abiding citizens.

"The Probation Department is committed to protecting the community's safety by helping juvenile offenders change their patterns of destructive behavior and learn healthy and productive ways to deal with life's challenges," says Chief Probation Officer Vincent J. Iaria.

These programs include working with youth considered "at-risk" before they get into serious trouble with the law, teaching young mothers and fathers parenting skills, helping youth gain self-esteem through work projects and reading programs, and more.

Juvenile Hall, now officially known as Kearny Mesa Juvenile Detention Facility, was constructed in 1954. It houses up to 359 boys and girls for an average length of stay of 18 days. Youth are booked into Juvenile Hall for a variety of offenses including theft, assault, and murder.

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